IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kazuhiko MATSUMOTO

Application No.: 10/816,978

Filing Date: April 2, 2004

Title: MEDICAL IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND

MEDICAL IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD

Group Art Unit: 2624

Confirmation No.: 1697

Examiner: Katrina R. Fujita

Attorney Docket No.: 060233.00005

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 1, 2008, please amend the claims as follows and consider the accompanying remarks. This amendment has been prepared in accordance with the rules promulgated under 37 CFR §1.121.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 16 of this paper.